M E M O R A N D U M

April 1, 1964

TO: Members of the President's Commission

FROM: Leon D. Hubert
Burt W. Griffin

SUBJECT: Possible Cuban Associations of Jack Ruby.

I. Associations Suggested by Substantial Evidence.

Mr. Ray Robert McKeown, convicted in Houston, Texas of selling arms to Fidel Castro, has stated that in approximately April 1959, after he had received considerable notoriety in Texas because of his arms activities and friendship with Fidel Castro, he was contacted by a man identifying himself as Rubenstein. This individual telephoned him once and met with him personally on another occasion. In one of the conversations, Rubenstein stated that he had options on Jeeps which were in Shreveport, La. and that he desired to arrange a sale to Castro. On the other occasion, Rubenstein stated that he was representing a man in Las Vegas, Nevada, and that he was desirous of obtaining the release from Cuba of three men who were in prison there. Rubenstein mentioned sums of between $5,000 and $25,000 in these conversations. McKeown says that Rubenstein is identical to Jack Ruby.

Ruby has acknowledged independently that, prior to the time that Castro fell into disfavor in the United States, he had been interested in selling Jeeps to Cuba. Ruby states that he contacted a man in Houston, Texas, whose name he recalled as Davis. The FBI has been unable to identify anyone involved in the sale of arms to Cuba who might be identical to the person named Davis.

Ruby also admits that he visited Lewis J. McWillie in Havana, Cuba for approximately one week in late August of 1959. He states [illegible] that the purpose of the [illegible]

The number and length of Ruby's stays in Cuba are not entirely clear. Ruby admits to having been in Cuba only once in 1959 for about ten days. However, records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service show that Ruby flew to Havana from Miami on the night of September 12, 1959 and returned to New Orleans on September 13, 1959. Ruby has not explained this trip, unless it is the trip to which Ruby admits. In addition, Ruby is also known to have made inquiries in the fall of 1959 concerning the taking of a Caribbean Cruise; however, it is not known that he was able to arrange such a trip.

Ruby also has evidenced some sophistication with respect to the various political groups concerned with Cuban affairs. For example, at the press conference which District Attorney Henry Wade held in the late evening of November 22nd, Wade stated that Oswald was a member of the "Free Cuba Committee." More than one newspaper reporter has recalled that Ruby interrupted Wade when he made that statement and pointed out that Oswald was a member of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and that there was a great difference between the Free Cuba Committee and the FPCC.

On November 26, 1963, agents of the United States Secret Service were contacted by a reliable informant in Chicago who claimed that he had been contacted by certain persons interested in purchasing arms for anti-Castro Cuban groups and that the person who contacted the informant had stated "our backers are wealthy Jews and as soon as we (they) get rid of Kennedy, we'll have plenty of money." The informant later alerted Secret Service Agents to further meetings with the persons with whom he had been in contact. One of the Cubans involved in this group is a member of the 30th of November movement and another is a member of the Directorate of Student Revolutionaries (DRE). The 30th of November man originally came to the United States on July 6, 1960 and went immediately to Dallas, Texas where he was employed by the C. J. Simpson Drilling Company. He has retained his contacts with Mr. C. J. Simpson. The Secret Service is endeavoring to establish an undercover relationship with this Cuban group and we have asked that the Commission be kept informed on activities in Chicago.

II. Rumors.

Seven or eight different rumors also link Ruby to Cuba. An FBI informant in Atlanta says Ruby was a gun runner to Cuba in the early 1950's. A man claims that his brother, not located by the FBI, heard Ruby talk in Dallas about Cuban gun running activities in 1958. Another person claims a guest told him in 1961 [illegible] to a man in Dallas [illegible] Ruby [illegible] Cubans. A prostitute, formerly employed by Ruby as an exotic dancer, claims that in 1961 [illegible] and Ruby [illegible] rifles [illegible] Mexico for sale to an unidentified Cuban group. [illegible] alleges that Ruby visited Cuba in [illegible]. [illegible] Pennsylvania [illegible] a piece of paper [illegible]

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